



The Daily Whip

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	??? p.m.

***** DEMOCRATIC UNITY FORCED THE GOP LEADERSHIP TO PULL THE MISGUIDED GOP HEAD START BILL THAT WAS TO BE CONSIDERED THIS WEEK ON THE HOUSE FLOOR. DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS ARE COMMENDED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND THE HEAD START PROGRAM.**

***** THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE HOUSE WILL BE IN SESSION TOMORROW IN ORDER TO CONSIDER H.R. 2754 - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY04 AND 05.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE

The House will convene at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House will recess at approximately 2:30 p.m. and reconvene at 4:00 p.m. in a Joint Meeting with the Senate for the purpose of receiving the Right Honorable Tony Blair, M.P., Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

H.R. 2691 - Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (*Rep. Taylor {NC} - Appropriations*) (*Complete Consideration*)

Postponed Vote on the Michaud Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit.

The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 205-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

Bell Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit Measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 205-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than Friday, July 18.

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.R. 2691 - Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (*Rep. Taylor {NC} - Appropriations*) (*Complete Consideration*). This bill provides new appropriations of \$19.6 billion for FY04 for the Interior Department, the Agriculture Department's Forest Service, and cultural programs. These funds include: \$1.7 billion for the Bureau of Land Management; \$2.25 billion for the National Park Service; \$1.29 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service; \$2.3 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; \$4.18 billion for the Forest Service (Agriculture Department); \$2.95 billion for Indian Health (HHS Department); \$1.72 billion for the Energy Department; \$ 545 million for the Smithsonian Institution; \$117.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts; and \$137 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities. This bill provides \$560 million less than called for by a bipartisan six-year conservation initiative agreement made during consideration of the FY01 Interior appropriations bill.



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The House completed general debate on this bill yesterday and also began consideration of germane amendments. Today, the House will resume consideration of additional amendments under the five-minute rule. Amendments to this bill include:

- **Slaughter-Shays-Dicks-Leach Amendment** (Debated yesterday-Vote to be taken today)
 - To increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The amendment increases NEA funding by \$10 million and NEH funding by \$5 million. This amendment is similar to an amendment adopted last year by a 234-192 vote. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**
- **Sessions Amendment** - To strip Section 335, a bipartisan provision that would temporarily suspend the massive effort currently underway at the Department of Interior and related agencies (including the National Park Service and the Forest Service) to privatize the services that are essential to safeguarding America's natural treasures.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has imposed a government-wide privatization quota that is forcing all agencies to review for privatization at least 15% of noninherently governmental federal employees, regardless of the needs or missions of the agencies. At Interior, these services are performed by a diverse group of federal employees, including scientists, archeologists, architects, curators, engineers, fire fighters, and laborers.

Section 335 is supported by a diverse coalition of labor, environmental, public interest, and civil rights organizations. **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO.**

Daily Quote...

"AARP, which has 35.5 million members, warned Congress this week that separate versions of the [prescription drugs] legislation passed by the Senate and House of Representatives offer inadequate benefits and could do more harm than good. It said it 'will not hesitate to oppose' a final version unless improvements are made."

-Story in today's *USA Today*